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CIRCULAR NO. 9.

United States Department of Agriculture,
SECTION OF FOREIGN MARKETS.

[Under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture.]

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR 1893, 1894, 1895, AND 1896.

During the ten years ending June 30, 1896, the United States exported \$8,207,292,566 worth of domestic merchandise, which, increased by the value of articles of foreign origin reexported—\$149,785,038—swells our total exports to the enormous sum of \$8,357,077,604. Our imports during the same period being valued at \$7,656,127,784, the total commerce of the United States, including imports and exports, for the ten years 1887–1896, amounted to \$16,013,205,388, or a yearly average of more than \$1,600,000,000. The following table shows, by years, the value of exports—both foreign and domestic—and of imports, as well as the total trade of the United States, for the ten years ending June 30, 1896:

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Total values of imports and exports of merchandise, 1887–1896.*

Year ending June 30—	Exports.			Imports.	Total exports and imports.
	Domestic.	Foreign.	Total.		
1887	\$703, 022, 923	\$13, 160, 288	\$716, 183, 211	\$692, 319, 768	\$1, 408, 502, 979
1888	683, 862, 104	12, 092, 403	695, 954, 507	723, 957, 114	1, 419, 911, 621
1889	730, 282, 609	12, 118, 766	742, 401, 375	745, 131, 652	1, 487, 533, 027
1890	845, 293, 828	12, 534, 856	857, 828, 684	789, 310, 409	1, 647, 139, 093
1891	872, 270, 283	12, 210, 527	884, 480, 810	844, 916, 196	1, 729, 397, 006
1892	1, 015, 732, 011	14, 546, 137	1, 030, 278, 148	827, 402, 462	1, 857, 680, 610
1893	831, 030, 785	16, 634, 409	847, 665, 194	866, 400, 922	1, 714, 066, 116
1894	869, 204, 937	22, 935, 635	892, 140, 572	654, 994, 622	1, 547, 135, 194
1895	793, 392, 599	14, 145, 566	807, 538, 165	731, 969, 965	1, 539, 508, 130
1896	863, 200, 487	19, 406, 451	882, 606, 938	779, 724, 674	1, 662, 331, 612
Annual average for 10-year period 1887–1896..	820, 729, 257	14, 978, 504	835, 707, 761	765, 612, 778	1, 601, 320, 539
Excess of 1896 over 1895	69, 807, 888	5, 260, 885	75, 068, 773	47, 754, 709	122, 823, 482
Excess of 1896 over 10-year average	42, 471, 230	4, 427, 947	46, 899, 177	14, 111, 896	61, 011, 073

* The term merchandise, as used in this circular, does not include the precious metals.

A comparison of the figures for 1896 with those for 1895 shows an increase all around, as follows:

Increase of 1896 over 1895.

	Value.	Percent.
Domestic merchandise exported.....	\$69,807,888	8.8
Foreign merchandise exported.....	5,260,885	37.2
Total exports.....	75,068,773	9.3
Imports.....	47,754,709	6.5
Total commerce.....	122,823,482	8

Compared with the annual average of the ten-year period under consideration, the figures for 1896 show an upward tendency not quite as marked as was the gain over 1895, but still sufficiently decisive to warrant the hope that, unless some new disturbing factor arises, the commercial depression of 1894 and 1895 is a thing of the past, and our commerce, which is the measure of general prosperity, will soon resume its former dimensions. The subjoined tabular statement shows the excess in the value of imports and exports for 1896 over the average of the ten-year period 1887-1896:

Increase in 1896 over the average annual amount, 1887-1896.

	Value.	Percent.
Domestic merchandise exported.....	\$42,471,230	5.2
Foreign merchandise exported.....	4,427,947	29.6
Total exports.....	46,899,177	5.6
Imports.....	14,111,896	1.8
Total commerce.....	61,011,073	3.8

EXPORTS.

The following figures show the values of our exports of domestic merchandise, grouped according to the sources of production, in the six years ending June 30, 1896:

Products of—	1891.		1892.		1893.	
	Value.	Per cent.	Value.	Per cent.	Value.	Per cent.
Agriculture.....	\$642,751,344	73.69	\$799,328,232	78.69	\$615,382,986	74.05
Manufactures.....	168,927,815	19.37	158,510,937	15.61	158,023,118	19.02
Mining.....	22,054,970	2.53	20,692,885	2.04	20,020,026	2.41
Forest.....	28,715,713	3.29	27,957,423	2.75	28,127,113	3.38
Fisheries.....	6,208,577	.71	5,403,587	.53	5,541,378	.67
Miscellaneous.....	3,612,364	.41	3,838,947	.38	3,936,164	.47
Total.....	872,270,283	100	1,015,732,011	100	831,030,785	100

Products of—	1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Value.	Per cent.	Value.	Per cent.	Value.	Per cent.
Agriculture.....	\$628,363,038	72.28	\$553,210,026	69.73	\$569,841,714	66.02
Manufactures.....	183,728,808	21.14	183,595,743	23.14	228,489,893	26.47
Mining.....	20,449,598	2.35	18,599,814	2.33	20,412,153	2.37
Forest.....	28,000,629	3.22	28,576,235	3.61	33,718,204	3.91
Fisheries.....	4,261,920	.49	5,328,807	.67	6,585,814	.76
Miscellaneous.....	4,400,944	.52	4,171,974	.52	4,152,709	.47
Total.....	869,204,937	100	793,392,599	100	863,200,487	100

The figures show that during the fiscal year just ended, the American farmers sold to foreign nations \$570,000,000 worth of their produce, a gain of \$17,000,000 over the preceding year. Agricultural products made up about 66 per cent of our total exports in 1896, as against 70 per cent in 1895, 72 per cent in 1894, and 74 per cent in 1893. That an increase in absolute value from \$553,000,000 in 1895 to \$570,000,000 in 1896 is accompanied by a falling off in percentage from 70 to 66 is due to the fact that the sale abroad of our manufactured products grew proportionately much faster—from \$184,000,000 in 1895 to \$228,000,000 in 1896.

In the following three tables the values of the principal articles of domestic merchandise exported in 1896 are compared with those of the preceding year. The commodities have been arranged in three classes, as follows:

(1) *Articles showing a decided increase in the export value of 1896 over 1895.*

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Mineral oils, refined	\$41,500,000	\$56,200,000
Animals, live	35,800,000	41,800,000
Corn	14,700,000	37,800,000
Wood, and manufactures of	27,100,000	31,900,000
Copper, and manufactures of	14,500,000	19,700,000
Beef, fresh	16,800,000	19,000,000
Leather, sole, and other	13,600,000	17,800,000
Machinery, not specified	11,500,000	14,900,000
Hams	11,000,000	12,700,000
Cotton cloth, uncolored	7,000,000	9,500,000
Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines	8,200,000	9,000,000
Naval stores	7,400,000	8,800,000
Oleomargarine, the oil	7,100,000	8,100,000
Oilcake and oilcake meal	7,200,000	7,900,000
Mineral oil, crude	5,200,000	6,100,000
Fruits and nuts	5,000,000	5,700,000
Builders' hardware, saws and tools	4,500,000	5,500,000
Fish	4,300,000	5,200,000
Tobacco, manufactures of	4,000,000	4,400,000
Paraffin and paraffin wax	3,600,000	4,400,000
Beef, salted or pickled, and other cured	3,600,000	4,000,000
Hides and skins, other than furs	2,300,000	3,900,000
Cotton, sea island	2,800,000	3,800,000
Oats	201,000	3,500,000
Sewing machines	2,300,000	3,100,000
Barley	767,000	3,100,000
Carriages, cars, etc.	2,400,000	2,900,000
Butter	916,000	2,900,000

(2) *Articles presenting but slight fluctuations during the two years.*

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Wheat flour	\$51,700,000	\$52,000,000
Coal and coke	11,400,000	11,100,000
Canned beef	5,700,000	5,600,000
Agricultural implements	5,400,000	5,200,000
Pickled pork	4,100,000	4,000,000
Furs and fur skins	3,900,000	3,800,000
Cotton cloths, colored	3,400,000	3,400,000
Glucose	2,600,000	2,800,000
Locomotive engines	2,400,000	2,500,000

(3) *Articles in which the falling off in export values is more or less pronounced.*

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Cotton, other than sea island	\$202,100,000	\$186,200,000
Wheat	43,800,000	39,700,000
Lard	36,800,000	33,600,000
Bacon	37,800,000	33,400,000
Leaf tobacco	25,600,000	24,400,000
Cotton-seed oil	6,800,000	5,500,000
Fertilizers	5,700,000	4,400,000
Cheese	5,500,000	3,100,000
Hops	1,900,000	1,500,000
Clover seed	2,100,000	437,000
Whisky, bourbon	1,500,000	187,000

These statements show that many of our principal farm products, such as cotton, wheat, lard, bacon, leaf tobacco, etc., brought smaller returns from foreign markets than in 1895. Wheat flour, canned beef, and pickled pork held their own, while farm animals, corn, fresh beef, hams, oleomargarine, oilcake, fruits, and nuts brought better returns than last year. This is particularly noticeable in the case of corn, which jumped from \$14,700,000 in 1895 to \$37,800,000 in 1896, an increase of \$23,100,000, or 157 per cent.

EXPORTS, BY COUNTRIES.

As stated in a previous circular, "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland leads all other countries in exchanges with the United States. Americans export most to and import most from that island kingdom."

During the year ending June 30, 1896, we sold to the English-speaking people of Europe \$406,000,000 worth of merchandise, which is 46 per cent of our total exports; and we bought from them \$170,000,000 worth of goods, which is 22 per cent of our total imports. Considering as one customer for American products all the parts of the British Empire in all continents, we find that they bought from us \$512,000,000 worth of goods, or 58 per cent of the total exports. The distribution of exports from the United States among the ten principal countries of destination, as well as the percentages of the total exports, are shown in the appended table:

Distribution of exports from the United States among the ten principal countries of destination for the four years ending June 30, 1896.

Countries.	1896.		1895.		1894.		1893.	
	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.
United Kingdom.....	\$405, 623, 127	46. 0	\$387, 125, 458	47. 9	\$431, 059, 267	48. 3	\$421, 134, 551	49. 7
Other British possessions	106, 127, 913	12. 0	87, 020, 373	10. 8	92, 247, 703	10. 3	80, 025, 460	9. 4
Total British Empire.....	511, 751, 040	58. 0	474, 145, 831	58. 7	523, 306, 970	58. 6	501, 160, 011	59. 1
Germany	97, 949, 950	11. 1	92, 053, 753	11. 4	92, 357, 163	10. 4	83, 578, 988	9. 9
Canada	59, 689, 597	6. 8	52, 854, 769	6. 5	56, 664, 094	6. 4	46, 794, 331	5. 5
France	46, 973, 955	5. 3	45, 149, 137	5. 6	55, 315, 511	6. 2	46, 619, 138	5. 5
Netherlands	39, 022, 899	4. 4	31, 011, 775	3. 8	43, 570, 312	4. 9	38, 505, 193	4. 5
Belgium	27, 006, 250	3. 1	25, 242, 580	3. 1	28, 422, 989	3. 2	26, 740, 434	3. 2
Mexico	19, 450, 256	2. 2	15, 005, 906	1. 9	12, 842, 149	1. 4	19, 568, 634	2. 3
Italy	19, 143, 606	2. 2	16, 363, 125	2. 0	13, 910, 620	1. 6	13, 019, 539	1. 5
Brazil	14, 258, 187	1. 6	15, 165, 079	1. 9	13, 866, 006	1. 6	12, 388, 124	1. 5
British Australasia ...	12, 748, 074	1. 4	9, 014, 268	1. 1	8, 131, 939	0. 9	7, 921, 228	0. 9

In the following table all the countries that bought from us more than \$500,000 worth of goods during the fiscal year 1895-96 are arranged in the order of importance for that year, and for the sake of comparison our exports to them for the preceding three years are also given. Of the more important countries, Germany, Canada, Italy, British Australasia, British Africa, Japan, Russia, and China show decided gains in 1896 over 1893. The United Kingdom shows a gain over 1895, but a falling off from 1893. A very rapid and continuous decline is shown in our exports to Cuba, which dropped from \$24,000,000 in 1893 to \$20,000,000 in 1894, declined to \$13,000,000 in 1895, and amounted to only \$7,500,000 in 1896, or only 31 per cent of 1893. The relative position of that island was thereby lowered from seventh place in 1893 to fifteenth place in 1896.

Exports of merchandise from the United States, by countries, for the four years ending June 30, 1896.

	Countries.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
1	United Kingdom.....	\$405,623,127	\$387,125,458	\$431,059,267	\$421,134,551
2	Germany.....	97,949,950	92,053,753	92,357,163	83,578,988
3	Canada.....	59,689,597	52,854,769	56,664,094	46,794,331
4	France.....	46,973,955	43,149,137	55,315,511	46,619,138
5	Netherlands.....	39,022,899	31,011,775	43,570,312	38,505,193
6	Belgium.....	27,006,250	25,242,580	28,422,989	26,740,434
7	Mexico.....	19,450,256	15,005,906	12,842,149	19,568,634
8	Italy.....	19,143,606	16,363,125	13,910,620	13,019,539
9	Brazil.....	14,258,187	15,165,079	13,866,006	12,388,124
10	British Australasia.....	12,748,074	9,014,268	8,181,939	7,921,228
11	Spain.....	11,486,664	10,927,069	13,122,900	13,460,083
12	British Africa.....	11,290,995	5,203,378	3,983,883	3,638,999
13	British West Indies.....	8,732,477	7,764,178	8,512,016	8,044,846
14	Japan.....	7,688,415	4,634,717	3,986,815	3,195,494
15	Cuba.....	7,530,880	12,807,661	20,125,321	24,157,698
16	Russia, European.....	7,496,650	5,957,856	6,827,475	2,301,823
17	China.....	6,923,303	3,603,840	5,862,426	3,900,457
18	Denmark.....	6,571,400	3,475,326	5,050,837	5,270,434
19	Argentina.....	5,979,047	4,456,163	4,862,746	4,979,696
20	Sweden and Norway.....	5,036,766	4,652,601	4,391,046	4,084,704
21	Hongkong.....	4,691,201	4,253,040	4,209,847	4,216,602
22	Haiti.....	4,423,502	5,092,801	5,743,935	5,472,040
23	Hawaii.....	3,985,707	3,723,057	3,306,187	2,827,663
24	Venezuela.....	3,838,746	3,740,464	4,137,163	4,207,661
25	Chile.....	3,431,808	2,794,099	2,272,530	2,930,831
26	Colombia.....	3,382,588	2,596,302	2,784,634	3,155,777
27	British East Indies.....	3,240,783	2,853,941	4,329,103	3,152,760
28	Guatemala.....	3,158,059	2,665,408	1,664,584	1,763,862
29	Portugal.....	3,156,991	2,971,396	5,194,231	5,727,334
30	Austria-Hungary.....	2,504,026	2,125,772	527,509	571,037
31	Puerto Rico.....	2,100,094	1,833,544	2,720,508	2,510,607
32	British Guiana.....	1,749,193	1,705,631	2,414,720	2,000,675
33	Salvador.....	1,608,573	1,260,628	1,071,695	1,138,430
34	Dutch East Indies.....	1,560,901	1,147,315	1,722,876	1,183,605
35	French West Indies.....	1,530,326	1,589,858	1,848,808	1,818,955
36	Uruguay.....	1,489,353	1,262,001	1,015,171	960,606
37	Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1,398,125	1,126,999	1,649,129	1,834,177
38	Nicaragua.....	1,269,015	1,073,467	935,142	937,859
39	Costa Rica.....	1,198,612	984,085	1,002,049	1,210,740
40	Santo Domingo.....	1,064,116	1,361,067	1,768,602	1,143,479
41	Bermudas.....	1,042,158	821,564	928,876	962,116
42	Peru.....	991,228	630,385	591,377	636,721
43	Portuguese Africa.....	800,658	106,255	86,250	200,075
44	Ecuador.....	689,416	735,341	761,178	817,425
45	Dutch West Indies.....	622,906	619,505	598,267	752,703
46	Honduras.....	610,621	645,781	558,511	471,635
47	British Honduras.....	571,615	402,933	320,923	405,168
48	Russia, Asiatic.....	565,493	204,937	163,855	145,591
49	Danish West Indies.....	537,228	495,216	581,959	604,323
50	Tripoli.....	519,154			
51	Other British possessions.....	973,695	1,019,672	1,103,173	1,004,558
52	All other countries and ports.....	3,298,549	3,227,062	3,262,259	3,495,725
	Total.....	882,606,938	807,538,165	892,140,572	847,665,194

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the total value of imports of merchandise into the United States, classified as dutiable and free, together with the total customs revenue collected, and the percentage of free, for the six years ending June 30, 1896:

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Dutiable.....	\$478,674,844	\$369,402,804	\$421,856,711	\$275,199,086	\$368,736,170	\$409,967,204
Free.....	366,241,352	457,999,658	444,544,211	379,795,536	363,233,795	369,757,470
Total imports.....	844,916,196	827,402,462	866,400,922	654,994,622	731,969,965	779,724,674
Total customs revenue collected.....	219,522,205	177,452,964	203,355,017	131,818,531	152,158,617	160,534,351
Per cent of free.....	43.3	55.4	51.3	58	49.6	47.4

These figures show that our total imports during the fiscal year just ended amounted to about \$780,000,000 worth of goods, a gain of \$48,000,000 over the preceding year, and of \$125,000,000 over two years ago.

The articles that contributed most to the gain of 1896 over 1895 are given in the following table:

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Sugar.....	\$76,500,000	\$89,200,000
Wool, manufactures of.....	38,500,000	53,500,000
Wool, raw.....	25,600,000	32,500,000
Silk, unmanufactured.....	22,600,000	26,800,000
Wood, and manufactures of.....	17,800,000	20,600,000
Hides and skins, other than goatskins.....	15,200,000	20,200,000
Tobacco, leaf.....	14,700,000	16,500,000
Earthen, stone, and china ware.....	9,000,000	10,600,000
Chemicals, not specified.....	9,200,000	10,300,000
Glass and glassware.....	6,500,000	7,400,000
Gums.....	5,600,000	6,900,000
Manufactures of cotton, not specified.....	6,000,000	6,700,000
Cotton, raw.....	4,700,000	6,600,000
Burlaps.....	4,900,000	6,400,000
Lemons.....	3,900,000	5,000,000
Art works.....	3,800,000	4,800,000
Metals, metal compositions, and manufactures of.....	4,200,000	4,600,000
Cement.....	3,400,000	3,800,000
Sisal grass.....	2,700,000	3,400,000
Animals, live.....	2,700,000	3,300,000
Paper, and manufactures of.....	2,900,000	3,200,000
Spirits, distilled, of domestic origin, returned.....	2,700,000	3,100,000
Coal-tar colors and dyes.....	2,500,000	3,100,000
Matting, for floors.....	1,600,000	2,800,000
Machinery.....	1,600,000	2,800,000
Hay.....	1,400,000	2,800,000
Oranges.....	2,000,000	2,700,000
Crude tartar.....	1,900,000	2,700,000
Toys.....	1,900,000	2,500,000
Feathers and downs, crude.....	1,700,000	2,400,000
Cutlery.....	1,900,000	2,200,000
Pig iron.....	387,000	2,031,000
Iron ingots, blooms, slabs, billets, etc., not elsewhere specified.....	1,100,000	1,900,000
Vanilla beans.....	500,000	1,000,000

In the following table is presented a list of articles that shows but slight variations between the import values of 1895 and 1896:

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Manufactures of fibers, not specified.....	\$18,400,000	\$18,300,000
Wines.....	7,200,000	7,100,000
Gloves, of kid or other leather.....	6,500,000	6,800,000
Tin.....	6,800,000	6,800,000
Precious stones, and imitations of, not set.....	6,900,000	6,600,000
Knit goods, cotton.....	6,500,000	6,200,000
Bananas.....	4,700,000	4,500,000
Fur skins.....	3,300,000	3,500,000
Books, music, maps, engravings, etc.....	3,300,000	3,500,000
Potash.....	2,900,000	3,100,000
Breadstuffs.....	2,900,000	2,800,000
Hats, etc., materials for.....	2,800,000	2,800,000
Clothing, cotton.....	2,800,000	2,700,000
Fixed oils, other than olive.....	2,600,000	2,600,000
Spices, unground.....	2,600,000	2,400,000
Lead, pigs, bars, old, and other in ore.....	2,500,000	2,400,000
Upper leather, dressed, and skins, dressed and finished.....	2,400,000	2,400,000
Manufactures of tobacco.....	2,100,000	2,200,000
Hair, raw, and manufactures of.....	2,100,000	2,100,000
Spirits, distilled, of foreign origin.....	2,100,000	2,100,000
Nuts.....	2,000,000	2,000,000
Seeds, other than linseed.....	2,000,000	1,900,000
Dyewoods.....	1,900,000	1,900,000
Feathers, flowers, leaves, etc., artificial.....	1,700,000	1,900,000
Sulphur.....	1,700,000	1,900,000
Malt liquors.....	1,500,000	1,700,000
Chloride of lime.....	1,600,000	1,600,000
Volatile or essential oils.....	1,400,000	1,600,000
Cheese.....	1,500,000	1,500,000
Licorice root.....	1,400,000	1,400,000
Marble, stone, and manufactures of.....	1,200,000	1,300,000
Paints, pigments, and colors.....	1,200,000	1,300,000
Fertilizers.....	1,100,000	1,100,000
Salt herring.....	1,000,000	1,100,000
Salt mackerel.....	1,000,000	1,100,000
Olive oil.....	1,000,000	1,100,000

A considerable falling off is noticeable in the import values of coffee, manufactured silks, india rubber, tea, cotton laces, goatskins, tin plates, etc., as shown by the following figures:

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Coffee	\$96,100,000	\$84,800,000
Silk, manufactures of	31,200,000	26,700,000
India rubber	18,400,000	16,600,000
Tea	13,200,000	12,700,000
Laces, etc., cotton	11,700,000	10,900,000
Goatskins	11,000,000	10,300,000
Tin plates,terne plates, and taggers' tin	12,100,000	9,000,000
Soda	7,800,000	7,100,000
Furs, manufactures of	7,000,000	5,800,000
Cotton cloth	5,600,000	5,100,000
Manila	4,100,000	3,600,000
Coal	3,800,000	3,500,000
Paper stock, crude	3,800,000	3,400,000
Skins for morocco	3,700,000	3,100,000
Vegetables	4,000,000	2,500,000
Cocoa, crude, and leaves and shells of	3,200,000	2,400,000
Rice	3,400,000	2,200,000
Jute	2,800,000	2,000,000
Flax	2,100,000	1,800,000
Indigo	2,000,000	1,700,000
Opium	1,700,000	1,400,000
Linseed	4,600,000	800,000

IMPORTS, BY COUNTRIES.

As in exports, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland leads in imports. During the year ending June 30, 1896, we bought from her \$170,000,000 worth of goods, or nearly 22 per cent of our total imports. If we add to this amount \$89,000,000—the value of articles imported from her colonies—we find that we obtained from English-speaking nations \$259,000,000 worth of merchandise, or 33 per cent of the total.

After the United Kingdom, follow in order Germany, Brazil, France, Canada, Cuba, Japan, Italy, China, and British India. The imports from each of these, both in dollars and in percentages of the total, are shown in the following tabular statement:

Distribution of imports into the United States among the ten principal countries of supply for the four years ending June 30, 1896.

Countries.	1896.		1895.		1894.		1893.	
	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.	Value.	Per cent of total.
United Kingdom	\$169,963,434	21.8	\$159,083,243	21.7	\$107,372,995	16.4	\$182,859,769	21.1
Other British possessions	88,953,800	11.4	78,782,738	10.8	71,000,478	10.8	97,642,102	11.3
Total British Empire	258,917,234	33.2	237,865,981	32.5	178,373,473	27.2	280,501,871	32.4
Germany	94,240,833	12.1	81,014,065	11.1	69,387,905	10.6	96,210,203	11.1
Brazil	71,060,046	9.1	78,831,476	10.8	79,360,159	12.1	76,222,138	8.8
France	66,266,967	8.5	61,580,509	8.4	47,549,974	7.3	76,076,215	8.8
Canada	40,887,565	5.2	36,574,327	5	30,790,916	4.7	37,777,463	4.4
Cuba	40,017,730	5.1	52,871,259	7.2	75,678,261	11.6	78,706,506	9.1
Japan	25,537,038	3.3	23,695,957	3.2	19,426,522	3	27,454,220	3.2
Italy	22,142,487	2.8	20,851,761	2.8	18,006,075	2.7	26,250,241	3
China	22,023,004	2.8	20,545,829	2.8	17,135,028	2.6	20,636,535	2.4
British East Indies	20,370,558	2.6	21,266,013	2.9	14,829,661	2.3	25,968,554	3

In the appended table all countries that shipped to our shores during the fiscal year 1895-96 at least \$500,000 worth of merchandise are arranged in the order of importance. Nearly all of the principal countries show a decline in 1896 as compared with 1893, the exceptions being Canada, China, Dutch East India, Belgium, and Hawaii. Our imports from Cuba, which were valued at \$79,000,000 in 1893, shrank to \$40,000,000 in 1896, or a little over half of the former amount. Mexico dropped from \$34,000,000 to \$17,000,000. During the period 1893-1896, Cuba dropped from third place to sixth place, and Mexico from seventh place to eleventh in the list. Compared with 1895, there is a gain in 1896 in the imports from most of the principal countries, the exceptions being Brazil, Cuba, British India, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Imports of merchandise into the United States, by countries, for the four years ending June 30, 1896.

	Countries.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
1	United Kingdom.....	\$169,963,434	\$159,083,243	\$107,372,995	\$182,859,769
2	Germany.....	94,240,833	81,014,065	69,387,905	96,210,203
3	Brazil.....	71,060,046	78,831,476	79,360,159	76,222,138
4	France.....	66,266,967	61,580,509	47,549,974	76,076,215
5	Canada.....	40,887,565	36,574,327	30,790,916	37,777,463
6	Cuba.....	40,017,730	52,871,259	75,678,261	78,706,506
7	Japan.....	25,537,038	23,695,957	19,426,522	27,454,220
8	Italy.....	22,142,487	20,851,761	18,006,075	26,250,241
9	China.....	22,023,004	20,545,829	17,135,028	20,636,535
10	British East Indies.....	20,370,558	21,266,013	14,829,661	25,968,554
11	Mexico.....	17,456,177	15,635,788	28,727,006	33,555,099
12	Dutch East Indies.....	14,854,026	7,727,282	11,278,725	8,696,588
13	Switzerland.....	14,080,033	14,988,954	11,450,270	16,010,728
14	Belgium.....	13,776,014	10,141,485	8,609,819	11,166,196
15	Netherlands.....	13,295,767	15,182,581	10,690,979	17,448,948
16	Hawaii.....	11,757,704	7,888,961	10,065,317	9,146,767
17	British West Indies.....	10,800,618	9,777,444	13,017,178	16,028,592
18	Venezuela.....	9,649,911	10,073,951	3,464,481	3,625,118
19	Argentina.....	9,313,385	7,675,270	3,497,030	5,239,095
20	Egypt.....	8,043,797	3,628,462	2,165,485	3,354,825
21	Austria-Hungary.....	7,644,154	6,510,319	6,896,341	10,054,501
22	British Australasia.....	7,579,259	4,620,828	4,017,025	7,206,808
23	Philippine Islands.....	4,982,857	4,731,366	7,008,342	9,159,857
24	Colombia.....	4,970,092	3,713,682	2,234,887	3,572,918
25	Chile.....	4,709,017	4,465,561	3,536,197	3,995,441
26	Spain.....	4,131,184	3,574,126	4,255,875	5,694,553
27	Costa Rica.....	3,835,187	3,295,596	2,287,384	2,309,358
28	Russia, European.....	3,626,934	3,575,388	2,851,270	5,735,096
29	British Guiana.....	3,418,578	2,521,704	4,223,970	5,029,178
30	Sweden and Norway.....	3,320,321	2,531,327	3,112,066	4,176,384
31	Turkey, Asiatic.....	3,266,205	3,089,951	2,204,973	3,533,197
32	Uruguay.....	3,242,428	2,699,648	1,419,573	1,623,380
33	Santo Domingo.....	2,895,069	1,514,583	3,200,852	2,396,315
34	Turkey, European.....	2,665,127	2,097,702	1,657,218	2,215,464
35	Puerto Rico.....	2,296,653	1,506,512	3,135,634	4,008,623
36	Portugal.....	2,255,731	1,690,668	2,030,966	2,689,731
37	Guatemala.....	2,080,027	2,699,384	2,225,586	2,554,710
38	British Africa.....	1,732,147	776,114	464,087	716,376
39	Haiti.....	1,697,618	2,746,539	840,046	736,021
40	Hongkong.....	1,419,124	776,476	892,511	878,078
41	Nicaragua.....	1,268,922	1,538,792	1,564,472	1,400,236
42	Salvador.....	1,166,970	3,174,677	2,926,469	1,355,730
43	Dutch Guiana.....	957,247	855,508	1,078,541	1,079,710
44	Honduras.....	776,644	872,312	765,138	684,012
45	Ecuador.....	763,643	821,666	816,484	960,228
46	Greece.....	720,386	327,201	797,281	1,283,557
47	Peru.....	712,696	473,315	491,384	819,168
48	Bermudas.....	522,674	465,707	444,595	759,846
49	Other British possessions.....	2,223,277	2,004,125	2,320,535	3,217,207
50	All other countries and ports.....	3,307,409	3,264,571	2,791,134	4,060,922
	Total.....	779,724,674	731,969,965	654,994,622	866,400,922

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 1, 1896.